**Concept note on targeting and priority setting of rainwater management strategies in the Blue Nile basin.**

**Building on the current CPWF Nile Basin Development Challenge programme.**

**A joint IWMI-ILRI proposal.**

An Notenbaert, ILRI NBDC project leader; Charlotte MacAlister, IWMI NBDC project leader; Lisa-Maria Rebelo, IWMI NBDC researcher

29 November, 2012

**Introduction**

As part of the CGIAR CPWF [Nile Basin Development Challenge](http://waterandfood.org/basins/nile/) program (NBDC), ILRI, IWMI and local partners have collaborated in a project “on targeting and scaling out” of rainwater management strategies (RMS) in the Blue Nile basin, Ethiopia (http://nilebdc.wikispaces.com/Nile+3). The project has mapped recommendation domains for a number of RMS based on bio-physical suitability and likely adoption. It also developed a framework for priority setting of such RMS, therein, intrinsically linking priority setting with impact assessment. Though unfinished, these questions of targeting and scaling out, now accompanied by pertinent data, analysis and decision-making tools, has created a lot of interest from a range of stakeholders. As with any good innovative research, opportunities for not only improvement but also validation and utilisation have been triggered through the research process.

With this component of the NBDC (known contractually as N3) ending in December 2012 and the full NBDC programme continuing to end 2013. This Concept Note lays out the opportunities and R4D areas to both strengthen the research and enable its application in development processes in the Nile Basin.

2013 provides a real opportunity to fully exploit the products and outcomes arising from the work to date, both at the local and national level, strengthening the overall NBDC R4D while potentially contributing as a new area of work to the CRP5 WLE Rainfed Systems SRP.

**The work**

To date the project team has established good linkages with NBDC Project 4, focusing particularly on impact assessment. The strategy maps produced will be provided to the NBDC modellers by the end of November 2012 and at this point they will be tested in the established models. Outputs from such ‘impact assessments’ are expected to be available in early 2013. As NBDC 3 will have effectively ended by this point, we will not be able to include the biophysical impacts as feedback into our definitions and descriptions of potential strategies to test. Nor will we have been able to include livelihoods and full eco-systems dimensions in the impact assessments, and the consecutive refinement of best-bet strategies and priority setting. Only through a full assessment along different dimensions and weighing their relative importance, will we be able to do a full-fledged priority setting. It is thereby important to consider the temporal and spatial scales of the impacts of an intervention. Priority setting necessarily happens in the context of a rapidly changing world (population growth, urbanisation, landuse change, climate change). The key will then be to look for “robust” solutions, solutions that perform well in the different plausible futures.

Furthermore, the choice of RMS modelled and included in the first set of best-bet strategies has been informed by literature review and interactions with national and regional stakeholders. Through the local Innovation Platforms (IP) that have been setup in one of the other related NBDC projects, community-driven suggestions are only now beginning to emerge. Mapping their suitability and thinking through the potential impacts should be an important input into the IP discussions and inform their final priority actions.

Finally, the national level policy platform and its thematic working groups, set up by the NBDC are already showing interest in our work. More interaction and in-depth communication with this community will allow us to ensure influence at the national level too.

In order to fully exploit the potential of our work to date and see it contribute to NBDC set outcomes, we would therefore like to suggest developing the following elements further as part of the ILRI input to WLE:

1. Complete the feedback-loop of impact assessment and priority setting along different dimensions for interventions at different scales (nationally, regionally and community-driven)
2. Assess their robustness in terms of climate change scenarios (from NBDC project 4).

These combined activities would allow us to utilise and exploit the current projects outputs fully, show impact on local populations, their livelihoods and eco-system services and influence policy at the national level. In addition to that, they would ensure continued substantive input from ILRI and IWMI into WLE and the representation of both water and livestock systems in NRM.

**Workplan – from 1 January 2013 to 30 June 2014**

1. Characterisation of community-driven intervention scenarios;
2. Collection/collation of data for scenarios of climate and global change;
3. Impact assessment along the different dimensions of the expert-driven and community-driven scenarios;
4. Incorporation of modelled outputs from NBDC 4 into suitability assessments and priority setting;
5. Effective utilisation and application of scenarios at local and national levels.

**Indicative budget = 399,500 USD**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Staff | Monthly rate | No. of months | Total |
| 1 admin support \* 2 months | 5,000 | 2 | 10,000 |
| 2 research assistant \* 4.5 months (IWMI & ILRI) | 5,000 | 9 | 45,000 |
| 1 junior researcher \* 9 months (ILRI) | 12,000 | 9 | 108,000 |
| 2 senior researchers \* 3 months (IWMI & ILRI)) | 15,000 | 6 | 90,000 |
| 1 modeler \* 3 months (IWMI) | 8,000 | 3 | 24,000 |
| Partners for training and support | 15,000 | 2 | 30,000 |
| Travel to and from partners | 4,000 | 2 | 8,000 |
| Field work | 10,000 | 1 | 10,000 |
| International travel | 10,000 | 1 | 10,000 |
| Communication | 5,000 | 1 | 5,000 |
| *Overhead* |  |  | *59,500* |
| **Total** |  |  | **399,500** |